

## “SEXUAL HARASSMENT MEASURES IN SPORTS”



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### ABSTRACT

As symbol of the ideas of the society, sports is seen as one of the most important markers of the identity of today's world. Be it is parents of children during sports, fans of their teams, trainers of athlete; they all express typical reflecting emotions reflecting the present importance of sports. Tear of defeat and feeling of extreme happiness and excitement of victory provided evidence of the passion of sports. But over the past few years a disappoint-



ment number of the sexual assault are committed by athletes or coaches to young women athletes, it is the tears of those sports lovers parents. It is one of the tragedies in particular athlete and family. Sexual harassment is a recognized social problem in sports. Sexual harassment is sports deter girls and women from participating and developing as athletes. The development and implementation of policies regarding sexual harassment help to create organizational climates in which women and girls feel free to report such incidents. Setting policy on sexual harassment is also believed to decrease the likelihood of such offences. It is consisting of unwelcome sexual advances; request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature and can occur separately or is a part of abuse. Romantic and sexual relationship between coaches and athletes are regarded as an abuse of professional ethics, status and power. This is turn deprives the society as a whole of contribution of these women and damage a genuine appreciation of women's athlete achievement and contribution.

**KEYWORDS :**sexual harassment, athletes, coaches .

### INTRODUCTION :

Gender and sexuality is the most enormous aspects of the human being. As symbol of the ideas of the society, sports is seen as one of the most important markers of the identity of today's world. Be a parent of children during sports, fans of their teams, trainers of athlete, they all express typical

reflecting emotions reflecting the present importance of sports. Women or female athlete are the one of the important part of the sports scenario. The beauty of the sports is also become more beautiful due to female participation in sports.

Sexual harassment in sport takes on unique dimensions because of the power relationships established with coaches and because of the necessary focus on athletes' bodies. Sexual harassment and abuse are forms of sexual discrimination. It includes unwanted, groomed or forceful involvement in sexual behaviour, use of offensive stereotypes based on gender harassment to sexual jokes, threats, intimidation, approaches or actions of a sexual nature. Sometimes the affected athletes do not recognize what is happening to them because they become trapped by the abuser through a process called 'grooming'

The International Olympic Committee issued a Consensus Statement in 2007 which reported that:

“Sexual harassment and abuse happen in all sports and at all levels. Prevalence appears to be higher in elite sport. Members of the athlete's entourage who are in positions of power and authority appear to be the primary perpetrators. Peer athletes have also been identified as perpetrators. Males are more often reported as perpetrators than females...Research demonstrates that sexual harassment and abuse in sport seriously and negatively impact on athletes' physical and psychological health. It can result in impaired performance and lead to athlete drop-out. Clinical data indicate that psychosomatic illnesses, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, self harm and suicide are some of the serious health consequences”.

#### **PURPOSE OF STUDY:**

The purpose of study was to provide measures for prohibiting, preventing and eliminating the scourge of sexual harassment in sports.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

To prohibit any conduct by any players, coaches, trainers, sports psychologist, administrators, authority or superiority any act of sexual abuse to the athletes.

#### **Reason for sexual harassment to the women athletes:**

The following main reasons are behind sexual harassment to the women young athletes.

- i.Celebrity entitlement
- ii.A tradition of impurity
- iii.Group peer pressure
- iv.The value placed and aggression
- v.Coaches exercise power over athletes
- vi.Making recommendations further goals of the athletes or any other benefit on them
- vii. Voluntary consent by the athletes
- viii.Unprofessional behavior etc.

#### **EFFECT OF SEXUAL ASSAULTED PLAYERS:**

- i.Sexual assault have been shielded by coaches while victims were ignored, disbelieves or maligned
- ii.Accused players are sometimes scolded
- iii.Not disciplined during investigations
- iv.It creates a dangerous cycle for the whole athlete or campus

**Institutional factors for male athletes violence against women:**

- i. Organization or institution failure to hold athletes accountable when they isolate community norms and rules.
- ii. Organization or institutional support for athletes regardless of their behavior.
- iii. Support within social world for the belief that women are ‘groupies’ seeking status through relationships with athletes and that athletes need not take responsibility for the consequences of relationship with women.
- iv. Collective particular activities among team members supporting the unknown that those outside the fraternity of athletes do not deserve respect, which athletes can expect outsiders of defer to their wishes and demands and that athletes give outside the norms of the general community.
- v. Deviant over conformity to the norms of the sports ethic, to the point that it creates strong social bonds among team mates, strong feeling that others cannot understand them their experiences in sports and a strong sense of particular activities.
- vi. Perceived cultural support for an emphasis on physical domination as a source of status in the community and as a basis for identify as a man and an athletes.
- vii. Support from team mates and fellow athletes for the use of force as a strategy for ‘doing’ masculinity in their lives and being a man in their relationship with women.

**VIOLENCE AMONG SOCIETY:**

Due to sexual harassment by the athletes, coaches and members of the sports administrators the following violence can be occur:

- i. Injuries
- ii. Death
- iii. Destruction of property
- iv. Mass violation of sports fans.

**Formation of sexual harassment committee:**

The institution/association or organization of the sports centre will form anti sexual harassment committee with members from outside and within the institution under the president/chairman of the institution/association or organization to oversee overall anti sexual harassment initiative.

**Duties and responsibilities of the committee:**

The duties and responsibilities of the committee about the sexual harassment will be in action always and surprised visits to place vulnerable to incidents. To conduct on the spot inquiry into any incident of sexual assault to it by the head of the institution or any member of the staff or member of the team or any team players or guardian or any employee of a service provider or by any other person as the case may be and the inquiry report along with the recommendations shall be submitted to the authority for action. The administrator shall conduct such enquiry observing a fair and transparent procedure and the principal of natural justice and after giving adequate opportunity to the player or coaches accused of sex harassment and other witness to place before it the facts, documents and views concerning the incidents of sex assault and considering such other relevant information as may be required.

**Administrative action in the event of sexual assault players, coaches and other sports related members:**

- 1.Suspension from attending coaching and training.
- 2.Withholding/withdrawing other benefits
- 3.Debarring from appearing in any selection trail or other evaluation process.
- 4.Debarring from representing in any regional, national and international competition/tournaments.
- 5.Suspension/expulsion from the institution/association or organization.

**Guideline for preventing sexual assaults to the athletes:**

The following guidelines are suggested for the prevention of sexual assault to the women young athletes

- 1.By standard intervention programmes being implemented at institution / organizations, which engaged players, are becoming part of the solution, rather than part of the problem.
- 2.The same group mentality and leadership opportunities that sports provide can be used to teach and model respectful interaction between men and women.
- 3.Teams or individuals their good reputation, which means that their action both on and off the field impact their community.
- 4.Coaches have an opportunity to help their student players or athletes redefine masculinity as a strength that is used to helps others, a force for good rather than a force for coercion, exploitation and domination.
- 5.Leaders of sports governing bodies, educational institutions and athletes’ programmes are encouraged to formulate, implement and evaluate policies or sexual harassment and sexual relationship between coaches and athletes.
- 6.On part as a model for sports leaders to adopt to meet the needs of their respective organizations.
- 7.Focus on coaches, athletes relationship, its guidelines and implications include, both are not limited to, to other professionals who work with athletes, such as athletic trainers, sports psychologist, official and sports information personals.
- 8.Sports organizations and educational institutions to provide leadership and resources for the purpose of improving the physical, mental and emotional well being of all female through sports and fitness participation.
- 9.Professionalism of coaches, trained atmosphere of mutual trust and respect between coaches and athletes.
- 10.Officers of sports governance bodies, athletic directors and sports administrators to formulate policy guidelines and procedures that includes periodic training and distribution of the policy, subsequent evaluation of its effectiveness and effective response to sexual harassment in a timely manner.

**CONCLUSION:**

Highly publicized cases of assaults, sexual assaults, rapes, gang rapes and even murder that involved athletes who played power and performance sports had lead many people to think that the violence in those sports carrier over the personal relationship off the field, specially relationships with women. Information about the cases, including reliable statements made by assault and rape victims, obtain contains references to the athlete status and sports participation of the perpetrators. The fact that athletes today are more separate from the rest of the community than they ever have been is an

important issue. Until these separations are eliminated, assault will continue to be a problem, even if team hire psychologist to assist athletes. This is social issues as much as it is a personal problem. So remember that in 2009 landmarks statement in a case involving a female athlete rape by an Arizon State university football players raised hope that this may be starting to change. The victim was awarded \$850,000 in damage and the Arizon State University agreed to the demand that it establish a student safety coordinator inside the campus.

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